

The News and Herald.

WINNSBORO, S. C.

Saturday, December 22, 1877

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SOME persons are laboring under the impression that Fairfield is the only county in which delinquent tax sales have been advertised. This is entirely erroneous. All our exchanges teem with these advertisements, the list being longer or shorter as the people of each county have been more or less able to pay the taxes.

The Difference.

A gentleman who is thoroughly conversant with the financial history of South Carolina, and who occupies a position of great importance, has furnished the *Columbia Register* with a statement of the actual reforms accomplished by the Democrats. Here are the figures:

Tax levy 1875-6 under Chamberlain, 11 mills, on basis of \$120,000,000 as the total taxable property of the State... \$1,320,000
Deficiencies under Chamberlain for 1875-6.... 450,000

Total amount expended under Chamberlain for 1875-6..... \$1,770,000

Tax levy 1877 under Hampton, 7 mills, on basis of \$120,000,000 \$840,000

Amount in State Treasury at the end of first fiscal year under Hampton, remaining unexpended..... 115,000

Total amount expended Hampton's government \$725,000

The difference between the expenditures under Chamberlain and Hampton amounts to \$1,045,000.

The difference as to taxation between the present government and that which Chamberlain endeavored to foist upon us is this. Where a man is now assessed ten dollars for taxes, he was assessed seventeen dollars by the Chamberlain Legislature now defunct. Instead of paying five dollars in July, 1877, and five dollars in October, 1877, he would have been required to pay his whole seventeen dollars in February, 1877; and if delinquent he would have been sold out in June last, instead of having his time extended to January next. Moreover, the costs on executions, in Fairfield, at least, we are informed, are smaller than ever before. Under the Radical regime, the auditor and treasurer received about \$4500 a year, besides costs, while the same officers now receive about \$1,300 and costs. People who are not satisfied with this showing are hard to please.

"Ah que j'aime le Militaire."

The Abbeville *Medium* is par excellence the military organ of South Carolina. Its senior editor, the Hon. R. R. Hemphill, is brigadier general of the ninth brigade of South Carolina militia, comprising the counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens, while the junior editor, J. C. Hemphill, Esq., also holds the important position of adjutant general of the same brigade. Brigadier General Hemphill was born under a lucky star. The handsomest editor and spiciest paragrapher in the State, chairman of the delegation from Abbeville in the State Legislature, and now brigadier general of the ninth brigade, it becomes necessary for him, with Alexander, to sigh for other worlds to conquer. But, while felicitating our brother of the quill upon the honors heaped upon him, we cannot forbear to utter a word of warning. The Holy Scriptures, in which, during the progress of the usury debate, he manifested himself so firm a believer, say, "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword." After this, brother, wilt thou persist in drawing thy sword, and in turning the classic plains of old Fort Pickens into a *Champ de Mars*, where, on gaily caparisoned charger, thou wilt review the serried columns of the ninth brigade? Fly not thus in the face of Providence.

The pen is mightier than the sword. Resign thy commission, dismount from thy Bucephalus, bestride again the editorial tripod, and wield once more thy trusty gray goose-quill. Peace has her victories more renowned than war. Put away the sword. States can be saved without it. Heed the words of Holy Writ. For all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

The Legislature and its Work.

The Legislature on Thursday took a Christmas holiday. The members have been hard at work and have accomplished a good deal. A large majority of the measures advocated tend in the right direction. But we fear some unwise legislation has been attempted. The usury law is looked upon by many as the panacea of all existing evils. But the sanguine supporters of this measure are bound to be disappointed. Where will they find capitalists to lend money at seven per cent.? Will not the increased risks attendant upon lending money at a higher rate of interest than permitted by law have a tendency to raise the rate of interest and to compel the giving of much better security than heretofore? It is perhaps well, however, to have this law enacted. Thousands would never have been satisfied without it; and we believe that the experience of a year or two with it will cause them to demand its abolition for good.

A number of members have evinced hostility to the public school system. They seem to regard it solely as a boon to the colored race. In this they are badly mistaken. It is equally necessary to the advancement of the whites; thousands of whom look upon it as the only means of educating their children. Experience in other States and nations teaches that the public school system is the true one; and as South Carolina is bound, sooner or later, to come to it, it is unwise to throw any obstacles in its way.

A proposed constitutional amendment, giving to judges a life tenure of office, has been defeated. This is, perhaps, very well. The world does not move as slowly now as in ante-bellum days, and rotation in office is the general rule. The term of the judges should, however, be lengthened. Let the supreme judges be elected for nine years, an election being held for one every three years. Let the circuit judges hold office eight years, and if a total change of the judiciary at any one time is thought too violent, let one judge be elected each year, or two judges every alternate year. The life tenure reposes almost too much confidence in the judge. He can then be removed only by impeachment or address; and there are many imperfections which unfit a man to become a good judge, and yet are not such as would warrant the disgrace of a removal. Elections, recurring at long intervals, will be a sufficient incentive to a judge to perform his duties to the best of his ability, and at the same time will remove from him the temptation to become a chronic lobbyist. The elections should remain in the hands of the Legislature.

Special legislation should be abolished; and the effort of the Legislature to accomplish this by delegating the power to other authorities to act in special instances, such as erecting gates across highways, or changing the names of persons, is commendable.

The graver matters, such as the adjustment of the State debt, and the levying of taxes, are postponed for consideration after the recess.

The oldest greenback five is under glass at Nashville, Tenn. The teller of the Third National Bank in receiving a deposit noticed a five marked letter A, No. 1, and dated March 10, 1863. It was sent to the treasury department, where it was identified as the first five issued under the legal-tender act. It has been handsomely framed and will be presented to the Historical Society.

Death of Professor Reynolds.

Our community was shocked by the receipt, on Thursday, of the tidings of the death of Professor J. L. Reynolds, which occurred in Greenville on Wednesday morning from neuralgia of the heart, after a very brief illness. So widely known was Professor Reynolds that it is scarcely necessary to do more than render our sad tribute to his memory.

The Rev. James Lawrence Reynolds, D. D., was born in Charleston on the 17th of March, 1812. He was the third son of George N. Reynolds, Sr., and one of a family all the members of which were distinguished for more than ordinary ability and for success in the different pursuits in which they engaged. Passing almost his entire life in South Carolina, Professor Reynolds received his academic education at the Charleston College, from which he graduated with the highest honors, and fitted himself for the ministry of the Baptist church, at the Theological Seminary of Newton, Massachusetts. Returning to his native State, he became the pastor of the Baptist church in Columbia, relinquishing this to accept a professorship in the Furman Institute, then near Winnsboro. Becoming more widely known, Professor Reynolds was elected president of Georgetown College, Kentucky, and subsequently accepted the pastorate of the Second Baptist Church in Richmond. During all this time he was training a mind richly endowed by nature, and adding to it fresh stores of knowledge. As a reward he was invested with the professorship of Latin in the South Carolina College—then a distinguished honor—and held this position until the close of that institution. Upon the organization of the University, Professor Reynolds was transferred to the chair of Logic and Mental and Moral Philosophy, which he continued to fill until the native professors felt constrained to resign, and the classic camps fell into the hands of strangers and aliens. Since then Professor Reynolds has resided in Greenville, filling professorships in the Furman University and the Baptist Theological Seminary.

In the field of literature, Doctor Reynolds was an earnest worker. Besides a number of sermons and addresses which were published in pamphlet form, he contributed to different periodicals, religious and secular. Prominent among his works in this department are his contributions to the *Southern Quarterly Review*. He was editor of the *Confederate Baptist Working Christian*, a paper published in Columbia a few years ago. He was the author of a series of school readers, which have been well received and favorably noticed.

Besides being a most useful member of the literary world, Professor Reynolds was a tower of strength to the religious denomination with which he was connected. Whether as a scholar, a theologian or a pulpit orator, he was equally distinguished. His written productions and his utterances were characterized by a peculiar grace and a majestic flow of purest English. While to strangers, Professor Reynolds manifested a courtly reserve, to his intimate friends he was the soul of geniality, and possessed a keen relish for wit and humor. While the public will miss him for his eminent services to learning and religion, in private circles his loss will be felt because of his eminent social qualities and domestic virtues. There are not many Christian gentlemen of the old school left; and each one departing leaves behind a void that cannot be filled.

Dr. Reynolds was married in early life to a daughter of the late Benjamin Smith, Esq., of Charleston, and he leaves a widow, a son and a daughter to mourn his loss, rendered still more severe from the promise given by his apparently robust health that he would be spared on earth for a much longer term of usefulness.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, December 19, 1877.

SENATE.

A number of bills were received from the House, among them a bill providing for conducting capital executions in private; a bill prescribing the powers of circuit judges outside of the circuits in which they reside; a bill to prevent the wanton destruction of birds' nests; and a bill declaring the title of the Columbia canal.

The Senate rejected the House resolution to refer Corbin's election to the investigating committee. [The Senate resolution refers it to the committee on Federal relations.]

The bill providing for the election of county treasurers and county auditors was made the special order for January 18th. A bill relating to jurors received a second reading. The bill to amend the charter of Columbia, and ordering a new municipal election, was made the special order for January 23d. The bill securing rent for land was made the special order for January 21st.

The report on Patterson's case was referred to the committee on Federal relations.

In the evening session a committee of conference on the salaries of

attaches was appointed. A constitutional amendment fixing the term of probate judges to four years was ordered for consideration to-morrow.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Pope rose to a question of privilege. He and Messrs. Blakeney, Erwin and Bradley presented a paper giving their reason for not voting in favor of sending the charges against Patterson to the U. S. Senate, on the ground that they could not concur in the proposition of law contained in the committee's report, and they thought the Legislature should not appeal to the U. S. Senate at this time.

A number of bills were introduced, among them, by Mr. Gaillard, to encourage the working, digging and mining of phosphates in certain streams of the State.

A favorable report was presented on a bill to secure advances for agricultural purposes.

The proposed constitutional amendment giving judges a life tenure failed to receive a two-thirds vote of the members elected, and was lost.

A bill allowing certain townships of Fairfield to be benefited by the fence law, was passed and sent to the Senate. Also a bill appropriating \$2500 to the State Agricultural Society.

At the evening session a number of bills were read a second time, among them a bill to exempt from poll tax all who have lost one or more limbs.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, December 20, 1877.

SENATE.

A number of bills were received from the House and properly referred.

Resolution to investigate the conduct of D. T. Corbin in his effort to be elected to the United States Senate from this State, on the 12th day of December, 1876, and if he was guilty of bribery of members of the General Assembly, was adopted, and Messrs. Lipscomb, Crittenden, Wylie, Fraser and Taft appointed as such committee.

Mr. Taft asked to be excused, and Mr. Williams was put in his place, on motion of Mr. Crittenden.

A number of bills, of limited interest only, were passed to a third reading.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The conference committee reported an agreement on the Legislative appropriation bill, which was ordered to be enrolled for ratification.

A number of bills were introduced and referred. A bill to reduce and fix the salaries of certain officers was reported.

The school amendment passed its third reading by a vote of 88 to 23, and a motion to reconsider was tabled by the same vote, being four more than two-thirds of all the members elected.

The House concurred in the Senate resolution postponing delinquent tax sales to the first Monday in February.

The House then adjourned to the 16th of January.

BRIC-A-BRAC.

Two barons are setting type in the office of the *San Francisco Mail*.

A patent editorial stove, which only burns a basket of poems a day, is out.

What the nation needs is a patent savings bank and a patent lamp chimney, neither of which can be broken.

Honey worth \$1,100 from bees worth six dollars is the record of an Onondaga (N. Y.) man for last year.

If a whale seventy feet long was struck by a harpoon in the tail, a second would elapse before the disturbance could reach the brain.

"Is Governor Rice in?" inquired a seedy-looking man of the clerk of the Brunswick, Boston, a few nights ago. "Yes," said the clerk; "yes, he is." "Well," said the man, walking out, "I'm glad of it; it's a wet night, and he might catch cold if he was out."

A Lowell (Mass.) firm sent a lot of old bills west for collection. The list came back with the result noted against each name, one being marked "dead." Three months after the same bill got into a new lot that was forwarded, and when the list came back the name was marked "still dead."

At Paterson, N. J., on the 17th inst., an oil train was burned. The flaming oil flooded the street, burning houses in some instances half a mile from the scene. The oil cars would burst, the flames would shoot a hundred feet high. The paint was blistered on houses a mile distant.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Turkey desires peace; but says she is not whipped yet.

Bixby & Co., of blacking fame, have failed. People are too poor to shine their boots nowadays.

The British Parliament will meet in January, instead of in February, owing to possible complications growing out of the Turkish war.

J. T. Farley, Democrat, has been elected United States Senator, from California, to succeed Sargent, Republican. He takes his seat in 1879.

A poor fellow, named Charles Hoffman, was shot in New York, recently, while stealing horse-radish, which he intended to sell to save his family from starvation.

The Georgia lawyers are divided in opinion as to the effect of the constitutional homestead just adopted in abrogating the homestead laws already existing.

The death of Bishop Marvin, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, will require the election of three Bishops by the General Conference, which meets at Atlanta, Ga., in May.

While Lord Derby and another gentleman were driving at Turnbridge Wells, England, on Sunday, the horses ran away, and the coachman was instantly killed, but Lord Derby and his companion escaped with a slight shaking.

The governor of Georgia has determined not to call the legislature together, and as the new constitution makes no provision for a vacancy occasioned by the death or resignation of the governor, uneasiness is felt as to what will happen in such a contingency.

The Administration at Washington has taken into serious consideration the grievances of the Chinese in California. Should necessity demand it, the naval forces at San Francisco will assist the local authorities in preventing a recurrence of serious trouble.

The twelve years' feud between Senators Blaine and Conkling ended with the former's generosity toward the latter in the Senate, the other day, in his speech against the President's New York nominations. Mr. Conkling has buried the hatchet. "Anything to beat Hayes."

The New York city chamberlain has received from the State attorney general a check for \$444,982 18, being amounts received from Peter B. Sweeney and Albert A. Woodward, in settlement of suits against them to recover part of the money stolen by the Tweed Ring.

Two hundred girls and boys employed in the cigar manufactories in New York, where the cigarmakers are on a strike, were maltreated on Sunday by a gang of strikers. The police went to their assistance, and the assailants fled. The girls and boys were badly beaten.

The House Committee on Indian Affairs has substantially agreed to report a bill, on the reassembling of Congress, allowing five Indian tribes in the Indian Territory to be represented by a delegate in the House.

The business before Congress relating to the interests of the Indian Territory, in the opinion of the subcommittee to whom the subject was referred, is such as to make it advisable that the Indian tribes should have official representation. As it is, they can only be heard by attorneys, and the custom has grown of calling every effort of their friends a stolen or a job. The committee therefore concludes that justice to the Territory as well as the credit of Congress demands the admission of an Indian delegate.

SALARIES OF COUNTY TREASURERS AND COUNTY AUDITORS.—We trust the Legislature will not adjourn *sine die*, until they have made some provision to increase the salaries of county treasurers and county auditors. The duties of both these offices are responsible, arduous, and their pay was reduced by the Legislature to scarcely more than sufficient for the assistance they are obliged to have, to be able to perform the duties required of them by law. If the two officers are to remain separate, the salaries of both should be increased, so that good and responsible men can afford to keep them. It is very well to be economical and saving in the disbursement of public funds, but it is not economy to reduce salaries so low that officers cannot live upon them, while the proper discharge of the duties of the officers prevents the occupants from resorting to anything else to make a living. County treasurers are required to give good bond, and liable to make serious mistakes in the hurry and confusion always attending the collection of taxes, and for these liabilities, if not for the actual labor performed in the office, the officer should receive a just compensation.—*Spartanburg Herald*.